

REVIEWS.

PÆDIATRICS. THE HYGIENIC AND MEDICAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.
By THOMAS MORGAN ROTCH, M.D., Professor of the Diseases of Children,
Harvard University. Illustrated. Pp. 1124. Philadelphia: J. B. Lip-
pincott Co., 1896.

At the end of the nineteenth century an author who presents to a literature-burdened profession a book of more than 1110 pages assumes a responsibility of considerable magnitude. If he be honest, he must convince himself that he has something to impart and that there exists a real need for something that he can supply. An opportunity is given to him in his preface to explain his convictions, and Dr. Rotch embraces this opportunity by saying:

"There has been no attempt to make such classifications as infectious and non-infectious diseases, because our knowledge of the former is increasing the number of that class so rapidly that for me it no longer constitutes a practical division for teaching. The book begins with a consideration of the infant at birth, and follows it through its various stages of development up to puberty. After dwelling rather more at length on normal development than is usual in works on pædiatrics, the abnormal conditions are discussed. Beginning with the diseases which would naturally be met with in the early periods of life, and devoting considerable space to my observations on the blood of infants and of young children, the diseases of the different organs are then considered.

"The establishment of milk-laboratories during the last three years has marked a new era in preventive medicine, and has made possible the scientific feeding of infants. As I believe that the medical treatment of the various abnormal conditions arising in infants is in the future to be largely dietetic rather than by means of drugs, I have given unusual prominence to the part of the work which is devoted to feeding.

"I have also endeavored, in conjunction with my colleagues in the American Pædiatric Society, to simplify the nomenclature of the various diseases, in order that physicians in different localities should by using identical names be the better able to aid one another in their investigations. A revision of the nomenclature of gastro-enteric diseases and of those of the mouth was especially called for on account of the changes which have followed our increasing knowledge of the etiology of these diseases."

Division I., on the Infant at Term; Division II., on Normal Development; and Division III., on the Hygiene of the Nursery, are excellent. Attention is especially called to the beautiful casts of the foetal heart and bloodvessels, and of the nasal cavity, made in fusible metal by Dr. S. J. Mixer; and also to the plate showing the color of napkins caused by normal and abnormal intestinal discharges.

Division IV. is devoted to feeding—the general principles underlying all methods of infant-feeding, maternal feeding, direct substitute-feeding, indirect substitute-feeding, comparison of woman's and cow's milk, milk-laboratories, and the home modification of milk. It covers 135 pages, and is not only the most important part of the book, but is without doubt the most valuable contribution to the subject of infant-feeding that has as yet appeared.

The lectures on the blood in infancy and childhood cover 75 pages, and represent many original and valuable observations. However, we think that the proper place for it should be in a separate monograph and not in a text-book for students. The space devoted to this subject is out of proportion to its value, and could be used to greater advantage.

Division XI., consisting of 175 pages, is devoted to nervous diseases. This is an inadequate allotment when one considers the number of nervous diseases that are discussed, and that the chapter includes the subject of convulsions and the myopathies. In the introduction to this part of the work the author remarks that "We are much more likely to meet with nervous phenomena of the most diverse varieties in children than in adults. . . . The nervous specialist who has not worked practically among children, studying them in all their various phases of excitement and rest, disease and health, may fail to grasp the special phase of nervous disease by which he is at times confronted."

We do not doubt that his classification of nervous diseases may serve to facilitate understanding of them by students, but we fail to comprehend why hypnotism, insolation, and arrested psychical development should be included under the functional diseases of probable central origin. The first is not a disease, but a condition which may be artificially produced; the pathology of the second has been written; while for the third it is not reasonable to contend that it exists without somatic foundation.

Meningitis is considered in some detail, and, notwithstanding published cases to the contrary, the author is not willing to concede that any cases of the tuberculous variety recover. He recommends that palliative measures alone be used in this disease, in spite of the fact that, among others, Dujardin-Beaumetz reported a case of tuberculous meningitis ending in recovery, and the diagnosis was confirmed by the presence of tubercles of the choroid; and Freyhau reports another case of recovery in which the diagnosis was confirmed by the presence of tubercle-bacilli in the fluid obtained by lumbar puncture. We believe that the operation of lumbar puncture as described by Quincke, of Kiel, both for diagnostic purposes in this disease and for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in hydrocephalus, is an omission of importance.

The subject of cerebral abscess really merits more extensive consideration than can be given to it in something more than half a page; and encephalitis, especially the acute non-purulent form, which often goes to recovery and is mistaken for meningitis, has not received the consideration which the author is so capable of giving it.

We must express our disappointment on reading the pages devoted to the subject of idiocy. At the present day when the pathology of idiocy has been so thoroughly presented as it has been by Hammarberg, and after sufficient time has elapsed to judge the statistics of Lannelongue's operation, no mention whatsoever is made of these important facts.

The subject of mirror-writing is allowed nearly twice the space of

intracranial syphilis, and three times that given to cerebral abscess. The statement is made that "the actual pathology has not been determined," while we all know that the pathology has been as thoroughly written as it possibly can be, and that it may occur in perfectly normal children.

The course of acute anterior poliomyelitis is not chronic, although its sequelæ are; and we should expect some reference to the epidemic form of this disease after the important contributions of Medin and Caverly. Complete helplessness with mental impairment cannot be said to be characteristic of Friedreich's disease, when the first case presenting any mental impairment is yet to be put on record. The space devoted to Sensitive Spine might well be given to a discussion of chorea nutans (head-nodding), and this condition, if it exists, be perpetuated under its proper name—neurasthenia. In discussing tetany no mention is made of two symptoms which are considered almost pathognomonic, viz., Chevostek's and Trousseau's."

The chapter on Diphtheria is excellent as far as it goes, but twelve pages seem very little to devote to such an important subject, and the one page given to the discussion of the serum-treatment would be of no assistance to a student or a physician who needed much help.

The book is filled with instructive illustrations, and the press-work is excellent; and it seems unfortunate that the style should be so difficult and involved, and that such little care should have been given to the relative value of the subjects under discussion.

On the whole, the book contains many valuable monographs which will be of great value to the general practitioner and to the pædiatrist; but as a text-book for students we think that it is unsatisfactory.

D. B.

LEHRBUCH DER ALLGEMEINEN PATHOLOGIE UND DER PATHOLOGISCHEN ANATOMIE FÜR AERZTE UND STUDIRENDE. VON DR. ERNST ZIEGLER, Professor der Pathologischen Anatomie und der Allgemeinen Pathologie und der Universität Freiburg in Breisgau.

TEXT-BOOK OF GENERAL PATHOLOGY AND PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY FOR PHYSICIANS AND STUDENTS. By DR. ERNST ZIEGLER, Professor of Pathological Anatomy and General Pathology in the University of Freiburg in Breisgau. Eighth, newly revised, edition; 2 vols., 8vo., pp. xii. 746; xii. 1025. Jena: Gustav Fisher, 1895.

THERE is probably no more striking evidence of the rapid and continuous progress which is making in our knowledge of disease than is to be gleaned from a comparison of the successive editions of Ziegler's great work on *Pathology*, to the eighth edition of which it is now our agreeable duty to call the attention of the readers of the JOURNAL. Although not quite three years have elapsed since the appearance of the preceding edition, the book has undergone many and notable changes, which have brought about a very material increase in its size and in the number of its illustrations.

By far the most fundamental of these changes is foreshadowed in the altered title of the first volume, which from "General Pathological Anatomy and Pathogenesis" has now come to be "General Pathology,"